MR. CHAIRMAN: They will respond. Shri T.N. Chaturvedi;

SHRI P.G. NARAYANAN: Sir, the Periyar Centre has been demolished.

THE MINISTER OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI ARUN JAITLEY) : Sir, a very important issue has been raised. I will certainly bring it to the notice of the Minister of Urban Affairs for necessary action.

Arrest of Al-Quaeda operative in Mumbai and disclosures reportedly made by him

SHRI T.N. CHATURVEDI (Uttar Pradesh) : Sir, I want to draw the attention of the Government to a matter of grave threat to national security and the anxiety caused throughout the country.

A member of Osama Bin Laden outfit, Al-Quaeda, Md. Afroz Abdul Razak, arrested on 2nd October by the Mumbai Police, during interrogation disclosed the sensational news that Al - Quaeda had formed four suicide groups -- one to hit Pentagon and twin towers on nlh September and the three others to similarly attack our Parliament, Rolta Tower in Australia and the British Parliament. Afroz was to target the British Parliament. He had been trained as a pilot in Australia, the U.K. and Texas. The Al-Quaeda terrorist further disclosed to the Police Commissioner about the funds placed in different banks, and that the operatives were withdrawing them. Some facts were revealed by the Deputy Chief Minister of Maharashtra State, who is also the Home Minister of the Maharashtra Government. The Deputy Chief Minister also mentioned that he was asked by the Union Home Minister not to give full details. Even the nationality of Afroz, who has been remanded to judicial custody till 2nd of December, has not been disclosed. 777© *Pioneer* and *The Hindu* as well as *The Statesman* in their issues of 7m December, have reported the news on the front page. One can understand the need for caution during investigation of such a serious and widespread conspiracy. But, the House is entitled to know the bare and basic facts so as to allay the apprehensions and anxiety of the people of the country. Consistent with the imperatives of investigations and needs of security, I will request the Home Minister, through you, Sir, to take this House into confidence about this serious development at the earliest. It is all the more

important, as *The Statesman* has reported that this Laden aide may be handed over to F.B.I. It has further reported that the Australian Attorney-General had confirmed that Afroz was trained as pilot in Australia.

May I again, through you, Sir, emphasise the need to apprise the country of authentic facts in this connection keeping in view the requirements of security.

SHRI NILOTPAL BASU (West Bengal) : Sir, may I ask the Leader of the House, why the Home Minister has not yet made the statement? Apparently the news report says that the Home Minister had asked the Maharashtra Deputy Chief Minister not to disclose. Only when the information was shared in the FICCI meet, did the hon. Deputy Chief Minister of Maharashtra make a formal statement on the floor of the Maharashtra Assembly. This House was kept in dark about the security of the Parliament House, which is supremely relevant to this House, while the Maharashtra Assembly came to know of it. Therefore, the Leader of the House should inform the House why this statement has not yet been made in the House. It is very unfair. *...(Interruptions)...* FICCI cannot be an appropriate place to make the statement. *...{interruptions)...* The Leader of the House should inform the House why this statement was not made here? *...(Interruptions)...*

THE MINSTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI 0. RAJAGOPAL): Sir, I will bring this issue, raised by the hon. Members, to the notice of the Home Minister.

SHRI SATISH PRADHAN (Maharashtra) : Sir, I have to associate. I have given my name.

Sir, the Pilot, Md. Afroz, was arrested on 2nd October at Vashi in Navi Mumbai. I will not repeat the same thing. But he was educated with those guilty persons who were involved in the 11th September incident. Sir, the police have found some credit cards in his possession.

MR. CHAIRMAN: You just-associate.

SHRI SATISH PRADHAN : I am associating. Therefore, through those credit cards he could withdraw money from the banks. Sir, the most important thing has been reported in the *Indian Express* on 7th December which is very serious. Therefore, the Government should take cognizance of this; and they should come before the House to make a statement immediately. The Deputy Chief Minister of Maharashtra, Mr. Bhujbal is saying something; and the Minister of State of Home, Government of Maharashtra is saying something else.

SHRI NILOTPAL BASU: That is a State issue. We cannot discuss it here.

SHRI SATISH PRADHAN: I am not discussing about it. *..I/nterruptions)...*This is a matter of national security; our national security is involved.

SHRI NILOTPAL BASU: If the Home Minister comes to this House and makes a statement, then, everything would be made clear. *..I/nterruptions)...* This is unfair. We are not concerned about what happened in the Maharashtra Assembly. *..(Interruptions)...*

श्री सतीश प्रधान : सभापति जी, यह बात ऐसी है जो उन्होंने बताया है कि ...(**व्यवधान**)...

श्री संजय निरुपम (**महाराष्ट्र**) : वह अल-कायदा से जुड़ा है और पायलेट ट्रेनिंग के लिए पैसा सिमी ने भेजा है। तो क्या वह सिर्फ स्टेट सब्जेक्ट है ? ...(व्यवधान)...

श्री नीलोत्पल बसु : इस सवाल पर यहां चर्चा हो नहीं सकती ...(व्यवधान)... You cannot make a statement here. *...(Interruptions)...* He cannot make a statement. *...I/nterruptions)....*

श्री सतीश प्रधान: आप सुन तो लिजिए, आपने पूरा नहीं सुना है ...(व्यवधान)...

श्री नीलोत्पल बसु : हमने पूरा सुना है ...(व्यवधान)... यह हमारे रुल्स के खिलाफ है। ....(व्यवधान)...

सतीश प्रधान : आप सुनने की हिम्मत तो रखिए।

MR. CHAIRMAN: No speech. *...I/nterruptions)....* I have called Mr. Ahluwalia.

श्री सतीश प्रधान : अफरोज का सिमी के साथ कोई संबंध नहीं है ऐसा न्यूज में छप गया है । गृह मंत्री जी बतला रहे है कि उसका संबंध है और ...(व्यवधान) ...

MR. CHAIRMAN: You have to associate.

श्री एस.एस.अहलुवालिया (झारखंड) : सभापति महोदय, टी.एन. चतुर्वेदी जी ने जो मुद्दा उठाया है मैं उससे अपने आपको सम्बद्ध करते हुए आपके माध्यम से सरकार से गुजारिश करना चाहता हूं कि इन घटनाओं के बाद डिप्टी चीफ मिनिस्टर के बयान के बाद और गृह मंत्री के स्टेटमेंट के बाद भी कुछ ऐसे अहम मुद्दे अखबारों में छपे हैं जो एक चिंता का कारण बन रहे हैं । अल-कायदा के इस सक्रिय उग्रपंथी ने कुछ चीजे सामने रखी हैं । उसने बताया है कि अल-कायदा और सिमी का सीधा सम्पर्क है और सिमी के जो हैडक्वार्टर्स हैं ...(व्यवधान)...

SHRI NILOTPAL BASU: Sir, is he associating or making a speech?

श्री सभापति : देखिए, मेरी बात सुनिए । मंत्री जी ने कहा है कि वह गृह मंत्री को बताएंगे । गृह मंत्री आएंगे तो अपनी बात आप कह सकते हैं ।

SHRI S.S. AHLUWALIA: Yes. Why are you worried? I am not dissociating. *...(Interruptions)...* Why are they jumping? *...IInterruptions)...* You read yesterday's *Hindustan Times,* then, you will find what is written there. *...(Interruptions)...* Are you the protector of the SIMI and the Al-Qaeda? *...I/nterruptions)...* Are you the protector of the SIMI and the Al-Qaeda? *...(Interruptions)...* Are you pleading on behalf of the SIMI and the Al-Qaeda? *...I/nterruptions)....* Are you pleading their cases in the House? If not, please keep quiet. उनके वकील हैं आप क्या ? ...(व्यवधान)... जब सिमी का नाम लेते हैं तो आप खड़े हो जाते हैं । सर, इनसे पहले पूछा जाए कि यह वकालत किसकी करना चाहते हैं ...(व्यवधान)...

SHRI NILOTPAL BASU: Let the Home Minister make a statement. *...I/nterruptions)...* Let the Home Minister make a statement. *...I/nterruptions)...*

SHRI DIPANKAR MUKHERJEE (West Bengal) : Sir, there is a precedent. *...I/nterruptions)...* I am not talking about the SIMI or the Al-Qaeda. In the Special Mentions, the second Member always associates with a sentence. When other Members raised the issue of workers, I associated myself only with one sentence. Now, what is happening? *...I/nterruptions)...*

MR. CHAIRMAN: Yes; you are right.

SHRI DIPANKAR MUKHERJEE : This type of having different standards is very wrong, I must say. *...I/nterruptions)...*

MR. CHAIRMAN: Kindly just associate.

SHRI S.S. AHLUWALIA: Sir, I am associating myself. I am just asking for additional information. *...I/nterruptions)...*

MR. CHAIRMAN: Tomorrow. After the Minister makes his statement. *...I/nterruptions)...*

SHRI S.S. AHLUWALIA: Yesterday, newspapers again carried a story *...I/nterruptions)...* what they are doing in India. Parliament is their prime target.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Dr. C. Narayan Reddy.

Need for legislation banning smoking in public places

DR. C. NARAYANA REDDY (Nominated): Mr.Chairman, Sir, I seek your kind permission to bring to the notice of the House the imperative need to bring in a legislation banning smoking in public places. The Supreme Court of India has done immense help for the promotion of the health of the people in India by ordering a ban on smoking throughout the country. According to a survey, in India, every third *male citizen is a smoker. We are spending about Rs.13-1/2 thousand crores per year on treatment of smoking related diseases. Seven out of ten tobacco-related deaths are likely to be in the developing countries like India. To tackle this, we need a multi-pronged approach. First is the drastic reduction of consumption of tobacco in all forms like smoking, chewing, etc. including smoking in public places. The term 'public places' has to be defined carefully to facilitate effective implementation. There are other two important aspects, namely, encouraging tobacco growers to raise alternative crops and providing employment opportunities to persons now engaged in tobacco industry. The Cigarettes (Regulation of Production, Supply and Distribution) Act, 1975 has to be immediately replaced by a new legislation with effective provisions. Legislation alone may not solve the problem. What is required is a greater awareness among the people and a strong will on the part of the